Essay *Lord of the Flies*

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Living without your parents, being with a group-of friends and making your own decision is for most teenagers a dream, but for the young boys-in the book *Lord of the Flies*, written by William Golding, it is reality. It is because of a terrible plane accident, that these adolescent boys are deserted all alone on an island without any adults, were they have to take care of themselves. This seems tremendously different from the real world at first, but later they find out it is not so different after all. Complications-arrive, political problems have arisen, and the deserted island is starting to look a lot like-the real world. In-this essay I will take a look at the symbolism in the book that stand symbol for real life political and societal definitions. The-conch-shell, the fire, Piggy’s glasses and the boys themselves all are examples of symbolism used in this book and I will explain each one of them.

First of all, perhaps the clearest use of symbolism is this book, the conch shell. Piggy and Ralph find the conch at the beginning of the book and use the conch to call a meeting (Golding 1954, p.23). They install a rule where no one can speak except if they have the conch (Golding 1954, p.33). The conch represents civilisation and order, everyone respects the conch, even Jack. This tells us how powerful the conch is. When the conch breaks, Jack says that-now he can be chief again, which-tells us that the conch was somehow related to Ralph’s leadership, so as soon as the conch breaks, Ralph’s leadership breaks too (Golding 1954, p.181).

Secondly, another symbol-used in the book, the fire. The fire is made because the boys hope someone sees it and will rescue them, thus the fire is a symbol for hope of rescue (Golding 1954, p.40). However, the fire gets out of hand and one boy is missing, which means the fire is also a symbol for destruction.

In addition to these two symbols, Piggy’s glasses are also used as a symbol in de book. Piggy is an extremely smart boy and knows things the other boys do not. When the boys take Piggy’s glasses, he cannot see anything and therefore, he becomes useless (Golding 1954, p.166-167). Thus, the glasses represent his intellect. The glasses are also used to make fire, so when Jack steals Piggy’s glasses, he also steals the power to make fire (Golding 1954, p.40).

Lastly, the boys themselves also represent certain ideas and themes. Ralphs signifies civilisation, order and leadership. Piggy-represents-the-scientific-and-intellectual-aspects of civilization. Simon represents natural human goodness. Jack represents unbridled savagery and the desire for power and Roger represents brutality and bloodlust at their most extreme.

To conclude, in this inspiring novel a lot of symbolism is used, like the conch shell, the fire, Piggy’s glasses and the boys themselves. To summarise, the shell represents civilisation and law and order, the fire represents the hope for rescue but also destruction, Piggy’s glasses represent the power of science and intellectual endeavour in society and the boys represent certain ideas and themes. Although there are additional symbols presented in this novel, I found these to be the most important ones. The-use-of-symbols-is-crucial-to-this-novel; using these symbols Golding shows us that an item is more powerful than it first seems.

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**Bibliography**

Golding, W. (1954). *Lord of the Flies*. Faber and Faber.